

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1478

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of COLUMBIA	)	Served December 9, 1975
TRANSPO COMPANY, INC.,	)	
for Temporary Authority	)	Application No. 887
to Perform Charter	)	
Operations	)	Docket No. 302

By Application No. 887, filed October 21, 1975, as amended on October 28, 1975, Columbia Transpo Company, Inc. (Columbia Transpo) seeks temporary authority, pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3), to transport passengers for the purpose of sightseeing, over irregular routes, in charter operations, within Washington, D. C., Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Fairfax County, Virginia.

Columbia Transpo proposes to perform the charter operations in 12 passenger vans. The services would be provided primarily to small groups upon demand. Columbia Transpo would provide six separate tours.

The all day tour would be divided between a morning tour and an afternoon tour. The morning tour would involve a riding tour of downtown Washington, D. C., with stops at the White House, except on Sunday and Monday when the Smithsonian would be substituted, Bureau of Engraving, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, U. S. Capitol Building, Kennedy Center and Arlington National Cemetery. The afternoon tour would involve a riding tour of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, with a stop at Christ Church and Mount Vernon, and a riding tour of the Georgetown area of Washington, D. C., if time permits. The tour would encompass approximately nine hours. The proposed rate would be \$136, which would include admission fees.

The public buildings tour would involve a riding tour of Washington, D. C., with stops at the Bureau of Engraving, Smithsonian Institution, Capitol Building, and White House. The tour would encompass approximately four hours. The proposed rate would be \$56, which would include admission fees.

The riding tour would involve a tour of Washington, D. C., with views of the Capitol Hill area, U. S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington Monument and the White House, with stops at the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. The riding tour then would proceed into Virginia past the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial to the Arlington National Cemetery, with stops at the Kennedy gravesites and Tomb of the Unknowns, and would return through the Georgetown area of Washington, D. C. The tour would encompass approximately five hours. The proposed rate would be \$56, which would include admission fees.

The Colonial Alexandria tour would involve a tour of Alexandria and Mount Vernon, Virginia, with stops at Christ Church and Mount Vernon and would include views of the Pentagon, Jefferson Memorial and Tidal Basin. The tour would encompass approximately four hours. The proposed rate would be \$60, which would include admission fees.

The Washington at night tour would involve a riding tour of Washington, D. C., at night with views of National Monuments and Federal Buildings, including stops at Capitol Hill, Library of Congress, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Kennedy Center and Iwo Jima Marine Memorial. The tour would encompass approximately three hours. The proposed rate would be \$56, which would include admission fees.

The churches and embassy tour would involve a tour viewing Washington, D. C., and Embassy Row, with stops at the Episcopal Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Catholic University, and, if time permits, the Franciscan Monastery. The tour would encompass approximately four hours. The proposed rate would be \$56, which would include admission fees.

Columbia Transpo currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 19. That Certificate authorizes the performance of charter operations pursuant to contract with the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) to transport employees and guests of IBM among its facilities located at 10215 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, Md.; 10401 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, Md.; and 18100 Frederick Pike, Gaithersburg, Md. That transportation operation is limited to limousine service.

Under Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact, the Commission must base any decision to grant temporary authority to provide a specific service upon the findings that there is an immediate and urgent need to a point or points within a territory and that there is no carrier service capable of meeting such need. So finding, the Commission may, in its discretion and without hearings or other proceedings, grant temporary authority.

Columbia Transpo submits that people are already visiting Washington, D. C., in the spirit of the Bicentennial. Columbia Transpo also submits that there is an immediate and urgent need for organized group sightseeing to accommodate the millions of additional visitors to the Nation's Capital. Columbia Transpo argues that many tourists would rather not participate in tours involving 50 or more persons and, as a result, these persons elect to drive their automobiles to the various historical sites. It is contended that this election creates a severe problem since the streets and parking areas are already crowded and gasoline usage too high. Columbia Transpo states that its proposed service will permit the sightseer to be a part of a small group and still leave his car at his motel or in a fringe parking lot.

Columbia Transpo states that there are several carriers presently authorized to provide sightseeing tours in the Metropolitan District and that many of these existing carriers do now offer mini-bus service. However, according to Columbia Transpo, their presence does not lessen the urgent need for additional carriers to serve the tourists expected to visit Washington, D. C., during the Bicentennial.

By Order No. 1449, served August 1, 1975, the Commission granted Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours temporary authority to transport passengers, in special operations for the purpose of sightseeing, over irregular routes, within downtown Washington, D. C., Arlington National Cemetery and Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington County, Virginia, Alexandria, Virginia, and Mount Vernon, Virginia. By Order No. 1458, served October 15, 1975, the Commission granted Ira F. Gadd, t/a Columbia Tours, temporary authority to transport passengers, over irregular routes, in charter operations between (A) points in Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, Virginia, on the one hand, and on the other, points in the District of Columbia and (B) points in the District of Columbia, on the one hand, and on the other, points in either the District of Columbia or Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, Virginia, and in special operations (A) from points within Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, Virginia, to the District of Columbia, and return, and (B) from points within the District of Columbia to points in both the District of Columbia and Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, Virginia, and return. Each of these carriers renders transportation service in mini-bus type equipment.

The Commission believes that it would be in the public interest to schedule Columbia Transpo's application for public hearing. Necessarily, the purpose of that hearing will be to develop a record with respect to whether there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service and whether there is existing carrier service capable of meeting such need. Columbia Transpo shall be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to be sufficient to cover the expenses which the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19(a) requires the carrier to bear.

Columbia Transpo shall be required to submit and be prepared to support with a competent witness a statement projecting revenues and revenue deductions including taxes for a one-year period. Columbia Transpo shall be directed to file six (6) copies of the statement and serve one copy on each party of record on or before Wednesday, January 14, 1976.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Application No. 887 of Columbia Transpo Company, Inc., be, and it is hereby, scheduled for public hearing to commence Friday, January 16, 1976, at 10:00 A.M. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

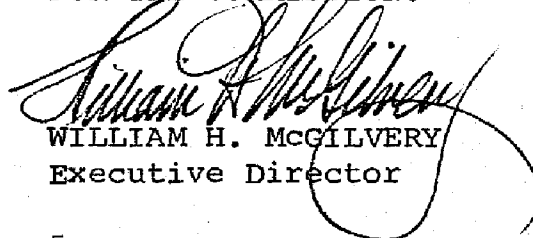
2. That Columbia Transpo Company, Inc., publish notice in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission of such application and hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District no later than Friday, December 19, 1975, and present at the hearing a certificate of publication from the selected newspaper.

3. That six (6) copies, the original to be submitted at the hearing, of the statement required hereinbefore be filed by Columbia Transpo Company, Inc., with the Commission and one copy served on each party of record on or before Wednesday, January 14, 1976.

4. That any person desiring to protest shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall notify the Commission, in writing, on or before January 9, 1976, and shall mail a copy of such protest or notice to counsel of record for Columbia Transpo Company, Inc., David V. Mason, Esquire, Schwartz and Ellis, Ltd., Suite 110, The Southern Building, 2054 Fourteenth Street North, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

5. That Columbia Transpo Company, Inc., be, and it is hereby, assessed \$200 pursuant to the provisions of the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19 and directed to deposit said amount in the name and to the credit of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission in the American Security and Trust Company, 1612 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., on or before Wednesday, January 14, 1976.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

  
WILLIAM H. MCGILVER  
Executive Director